GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:431
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2016
Energy Drinks
Simha Shri Prathap

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are no standards for energy drinks under PFA Act, 1954 and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government/Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) propose to formulate standards for energy drinks in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the Government approved limit of chemicals and other additives etc. being used in soft/energy drinks including the definition of energy drinks;

(d) whether the Government has taken note of alleged act of mixing of harmful toxic chemicals in soft drinks, more than the approved limit by some companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and name of chemicals being used and the action taken by the Government against manufacturers during the last three years and the current year, year-wise?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 431* FOR 16TH DECEMBER, 2016

(a) to (c): Prevention of Food Adulteration Act,1954 has been repealed and a new Act namely, "The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006" has been enacted by the Central Government. 'Energy Drinks' are carbonated or non-carbonated water based flavoured drinks containing high levels of nutrients and other ingredients. Food Additive related provisions of different food products including energy drinks (Food Category 14.1.4.1 and 14.1.4.2) have been revised and notified on 5th September, 2016. Further, standards of Caffeinated Beverages have been prescribed under regulation 2.10.6 (2) of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products and Standards and Food Additives) Thirteenth Amendment Regulations, 2016. It provides that i) product shall contain not less than 145 mg and not more than 300 mg of caffeine per litre; ii) the vitamins namely thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, vitamin B6, vitamin B12 may be added at one Recommended Daily Allowance level (100% Recommended daily allowance); iii) in respect of ingredients, flavours, sweeteners, food additives, contaminants and microbiological requirements the product shall conform to the standards of carbonated water. All manufactures of carbonated beverages/energy drinks are required to comply with the standards prescribed under the Food Safety Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 and Regulations thereunder.
(d) & (e): No specific complaint with reference to mixing of harmful toxic chemicals in cold drinks have been received by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. A study conducted by the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health (AIIP&PH) and the National Test House (NTH), Kolkata, in which AIIH&PH collected 4 bottles each of the cold drink brands (Sprite, Coca Cola, Mountain dew, Pepsi and 7 UP) and tested for heavy metals antimony, lead, chromium and cadmium and DEHP, indicates some presence of these metals. The study takes bottled (packaged) water as the reference point. Since a number of other substances are added while making soft drinks, its composition will be different from packaged drinking water. Regular surveillance, monitoring and sampling of food products is undertaken by the States/UTs and where any violation/infringement of rules/regulations is noticed, action is initiated as per provisions of the FSS Act and regulations thereunder. Separate information about such violation in case of carbonated beverages/energy drinks is not maintained centrally.
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